(d) and (e) In consideration of the difficult characteristics of the Rajasthan crude oil, being very heavy and highly waxy in nature (with very high pour point) and the difficulty in transporting it to a distant Refinery location for further processing, it was envisaged that feasibility of setting up a well-head refinery be explored by a Joint Venture of MRPL, ONGC and Cairn Energy India Limited (CEIL).

Discussions held between the Premier of Western Australia and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2366. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Premier of Western Australia visited India and heid talks with the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural gas in February, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held between the two sides; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (C) Yes, Sir. The Premier of Western Australia visited India and met Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas in February, 2007 and held discussion on bilateral cooperation between India and Australia in the hydrocarbon sector. The meeting reviewed the ongoing co-operation in this sector between companies in India and Australia. The Minister sought increased participation of Australian companies in NELP rounds and LNG supply contracts.

Sale of adulterated petrol in Bihar

2367. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pump dealers in Bihar are selling adulterated petrol and diesel freely;

(b) the number of petrol and diesel samples lifted in Bihar during the last two years and how many of them were found adulterated;

(c) the action taken against each one of them; and

(d) the arrangement made to ensure availability of pure diesel and petrol in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. The number of samples of petrol and diesel lifted by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 (April 2006—February, 2007) is as under:—

	2005-06	2006-07 (April 2006—February, 2007)
Number of samples of Petrol and Diesel lifted	2769	2162
Number of samples failed	9	11

Action is taken by OMCs against guilty petrol pump dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:—

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail outlets and also take action under marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and

Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) GMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and .monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of New Initiatives Taken to Check Adulteration of Petrol/Diesel and Streamlining PDS Kerosene Distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:

1. Automation of Retail Outlets: In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007

2. Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets: OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007

3. Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS): In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/ contractor owned tank trucks by March 2007.

4. Marker System in Kerosene: To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private Sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

5. Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines: The marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. Jan Kerosene Pariyojna: To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. Smart Card Scheme: With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient

and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

Independent Power **Projects in** A.P.

2368. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had, about two years ago, requested the Central Government for reduction of fixed monthly transmission charges tor supply of gas to Independent Power Projects (IPPs) and revised provision of gas supply augmentation;

(b) if so, the details of the capital cost incurred by GAIL so far towards transportation network for IPPs in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the decision given by the Tariff Commission regarding prices of gas for the consumption of power sector utilities in Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL has made an investment of Rs. 475 crores for laying the transportation network in KG basin, including for 4 IPPs and 1 Captive Power Plant. In addition, GAIL has also made an investment of Rs. 101.99 crores for laying of pipeline infrastructure for supply of gas to 4 new IPPs.

(c) Tariff Commission has not given any recommendations regarding prices of gas for the consumption of power sector utilities specifically.